
SECTION: CERTIFICATION**SUBJECT: Certification Requirements: Services/Information
Provided by the Local Agency at Time of Certification****ITEM: *Immunization Screening and Referral***



Policy	Local agencies shall ensure WIC infants and children up to age two years are screened and referred for immunizations using a documented immunization history. However, immunization screening and referral procedures shall be implemented in such a way to ensure that participants understand clearly that presence or absence of immunization documentation in no way may be used to deny eligibility for WIC services or nutrition assistance, (nor prevent double or triple issuance of food instruments for participants eligible for this benefit).
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Basis for policy	WRO Policy Memo 803-AT – All States Memorandum 01-56
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Role of WIC	The State of California Department of Health Services (DHS) Immunization Branch is the lead agency in immunization planning and screening, and is responsible for the design of immunization services. As an adjunct to health services, the WIC Program's role in immunization screening and referral is to support existing funded immunization activities. WIC activities should enhance rather than substitute for ongoing Immunization Program initiatives.
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The purchase of vaccines and delivery of immunizations remain unallowable as WIC costs.

Implement- ation	Local agency staff shall screen the immunization status of all infants and children under the age of two years, using a <i>documented</i> record, and provide referrals for immunizations when appropriate, when they: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. enroll and2. recertify
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A *documented* record is a record (computerized or paper) in which the actual vaccination dates are recorded. This includes the paper immunization record (from the provider), i.e. the yellow "California Immunization Record" (PM 298/IMM-75), an immunization registry, an automated data system, or a client chart (paper copy).

**Screening and
Referral
Activities at
Local Agencies**

Local agencies shall utilize the minimum screening and referral protocol where children are not screened and referred for immunizations by more comprehensive means. A manual or computerized method that allows for screening, assessment, referral and tracking of immunization status such as the ISIS immunization module is considered a more comprehensive process, and local agencies are encouraged to continue with these efforts where applicable. For minimum screening and referral protocol, please refer to Appendix 970-100.

When scheduling WIC certification appointments for children under the age of two years, advise parents/caretakers that immunization records are requested as part of the WIC certification and health screening process, but are not required to obtain WIC benefits.

**Documentation
Requirements**

At this time, there is no requirement for local agencies to document screening or immunization status in individual participant records in ISIS. However, State WIC Branch staff will document their observations and discussion with local agency staff regarding the implementation of immunization screening, referral and quality assurance procedures during Technical Assistance and Program Evaluation visits.

**Confidentiality
Requirements**

Local agencies shall handle all immunization information in a confidential manner, as discussed in WPM 150-40.1 "Program Records: Access to Confidential Records."

**Local Agency
Participation
in Enhanced
Immunization
Programs**

Local agencies participating in enhanced immunization screening, referral and intervention programs funded by the State of California Department of Health Services (DHS) Immunization Branch, by Proposition 10 or other funds shall ensure that such funding is sufficient to make certain immunization activities do not negatively affect staff's ability to provide core WIC services. Additionally, those agencies that participate in these activities shall not use Monthly Voucher Pick-up as a stand alone approach. Couching the scheduling of the return WIC appointment in the context of supportive assistance to update immunizations will have a positive impact and is encouraged.